(c) and (d) India's position in the negotiations has been evolving on the basis of analytical work conducted by research institutions such as the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), Indian Council for Research in International Economic Relations (ICRIER), the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), and the Centre for WTO Studies and wide-ranging consultations held by the Government from time to time with the Governments of States and Union Territories and different sections of stakeholders, including farmers'associations, labour unions and other non-Governmental bodies. While there has been a newspaper report on demand for publishing a white paper on the current negotiations in WTO, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to publish such a white paper as it is not considered necessary.

Targets for Indo-Pak trade after SAFTA

2356. SHRIVI JAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what targets have been fixed, over the existing one, the bilateral trade between India and Pakistan after introduction of South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) from January 1, 2006.

(b) whether wheat export to Pakistan is also be included over and above the 600 items which Pakistan is presently importing from India; and

(c) as Pakistan is presently importing wheat from Russia, US, etc. on comparatively high price, will Government be initiating negotiations in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) During 2004-05, exports from India to Pakistan was valued at US $ 505 million as compared to US $ 287 million during 2003-04 registering an increase of 76 per cent. During 2004-05, imports from Pakistan into India was valued at US-$95 million as compared to US $ 58 million during 2003-04 showing an increase of 64 per cent.

Under South Asian Free Trade Area Agreement (SAFTA) a phased tariff liberalization programme is envisaged. In two years, non-Least Developed Contracting States (India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) will bring down tariffs to 20% while Least Developed Contracting States

(Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives and Nepal) will bring them down to 30%. Non-LDCS will then bring down tariffs from 20% to 0-5% in 5 years, while LDCS will do so in 8 years. SAFTA is expected to be fully operationalised by 2016. No targets have been fixed for the bilateral trade between India and Pakistan after introduction of SAFTA from January 1, 2006.

(b) No, Sir. Pakistan has so far allowed 771 items for imports into Pakistan from India which do not include wheat.

(c) During the meeting of two Commerce Ministers of India and Pakistan on the sidelines of G-20 Meeting held in March, 2005, India had raised the issue of import of wheat by Pakistan from other countries at comparatively higher prices and had requested to source the same from India at competitive price. The Commerce Minister of Pakistan, while noting this request, said that during the last financial year, Pakistan produced surplus wheat and, therefore, did not require to import wheat from any source.

FDI in cement and steel captive mining

2357. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY by pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to allow 100 per cent FDI in cement and steel captive mining;

(b) the current rate of FDI allowed in cement and steel captive mining; and

(c) the details of blocks and the production capacity proposed to open under captive mining, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is already allowed up to 100% under the automatic route for cement and steel mining.

(c) Mineral concessions are granted under the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and rules made thereunder. Separate norms have not been provided for grant of mineral concessions for captive mines.